

From: rdwelch@swbell.net@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 10:25am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

908 Dutch Mill Drive
Ballwin, MO 63011-3548

January 28, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

I understand that the Justice Department is presently soliciting comments from the public regarding the proposed Microsoft settlement.

I am a retiree who owns Microsoft stock. I also own two computers that are using the Microsoft operating system. I will soon own a third one. We have come to where we are in this technology due mostly to the efforts of Microsoft. I do not see that the Microsoft operating systems have hampered others from getting into the business. In fact I am writing this to you using the Netscape Messenger program.

It is my wish that you approve the settlement. This case has been pending for over three years, and during that time the offensive and advantage have changed hands too many times to count. The prospect of additional litigation offers only one certainty: uncertainty.

The settlement on the table takes away that uncertainty. While I am sure there will be some argument in the details, the agreement provides substantial opportunities for growth in the research and development of non-Microsoft software programs. Microsoft has agreed to eliminate restrictive activities in the areas of pricing, licensing, distribution and system configuration.

I hope that you see the wisdom of going forward with this settlement in the very near future.

Sincerely,

Roy D. Welch